Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) organises and support awareness programme, seminars etc. in different States where there is potential to grow organic product for export.

Under National Horticulture Mission, assistance is given to farmers for adopting organic farming, organic certification and setting up and Vermi-compost units.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal for complete switchover from conventional to organic farming. However, Government is promoting organic farming particularly in low chemical input use rainfed areas and hill States.

Need to revoke the ban on lakhodi dal

3393. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to **state:**

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested for revoking the ban on lakhodi dal by conducting proper tests on the effects of consumption of lakhodi dal (Lathyrus sativus) through Hyderabad-based National Institute for Nutrition (NIN);

(b) if so, Government's response thereto indicating by when the reports from NIN is expected;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are large quantity cultivation and consumption of lakhodi dal is happening in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there will be no need of import of pulses if ban is revoked and allowed to bulk cultivation, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(0 if so. Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A request has been received in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India from the Governmeni of Maharashtra for lifting ban on the sale of Khesari Dal (Lathyrus sativus) imposed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad has submitted a proposal for conducting a study using goats as animal model for approval of the Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision on Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). The study would commence after the receipt of the approval of CPCSEA and may take about 2 years time to complete. However, initial data from the study would be available after 6 months.

(c) and (d) Lakhodi dal is cultivated and consumed in various parts of the country. The area under lakhodi dal (Lathyrus sativus) in the country during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 has been as under:—

Year	Area
	(in lakh ha)
2003-04	7.09
2004-05	**6.41**
2005-06	6.26

(e) and (f) The production of lakhodi dal in the country particularly in Maharashtra may not be sufficient to bridge the gap between the demand and domestic production of pulses as the current production of lakhodi dal is far less than the total import of pulses. Further, the import of pulses in the country is mainly of tur, lentil, gram and urd.